

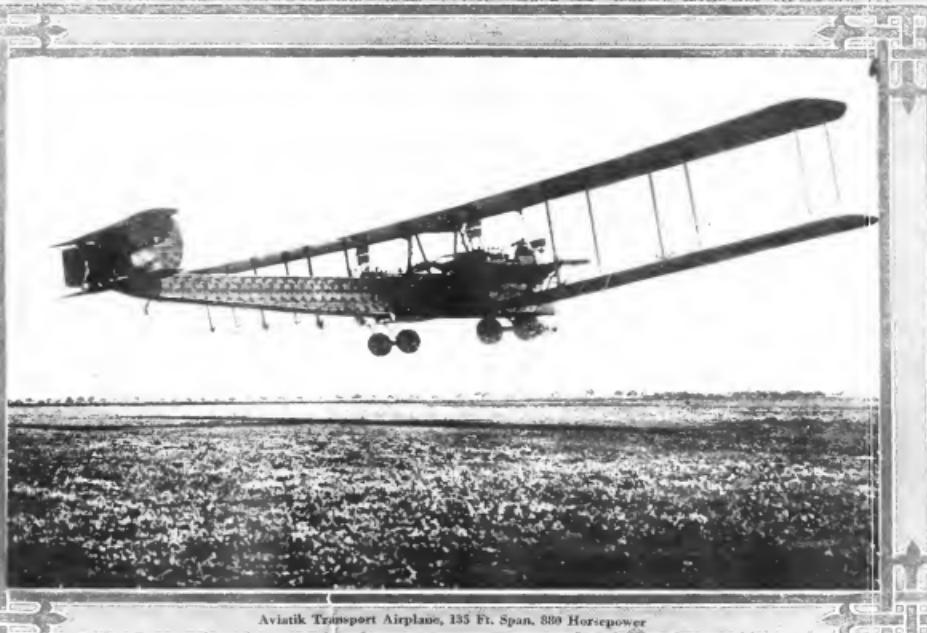
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AND  
AERONAUTICAL ENGINEERING



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VOLUME VII

Number 6

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- RESISTANCE OF NAVY NO. 1 STRUTS
- FUNCTION AND CONSTRUCTION OF THE RIP PANEL
- TESTING WATER RESISTANT PLYWOOD GLUES
- RULES OF BRITISH SEAPLANE COMPETITION
- HOUSING THE AIRPLANE

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# AVIATION

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VOL. VII. NO. 6

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# AVIATION AND AERONAUTICAL ENGINEERING

Vol. VII

October 15, 1939

ALBERTSON ELLIOTT  
EDITORIAL EDITOR  
LAUREL D. DURR  
ADVERTISING EDITOR  
GEORGE NEWFIELD  
ADVERTISING MANAGER

No. 6

THE rapidly changing attitude of Congress toward the aviation program is becoming more and more evident as the session nears its close. The Senate seems to be wholly convinced that a separate department is necessary to properly administer any funds appropriated for aeronautics and the Senate is willing to allow sufficient amounts for the purpose of keeping the United States prepared for aerial warfare. The House of Representatives is slowly coming around to the view of the Senate. The matter has unfortunately taken a political turn so that the issues are somewhat confused. Representatives have their eyes on the next presidential campaign and blind economy in the policy of certain directions.

Meanwhile the engineering development of airplanes and accessories is going along slowly, with as much encouragement as can be given by the limited funds available. The aeronautical engineers, while pessimistic over their plight at the moment, are working on designs which can be produced as soon as orders are forthcoming. They have been through lean periods before and are confident that ultimately this country will lead the world in aeronautic design, construction and equipment.

## Passenger and Exhibition Flying

One of the most interesting phases of present aviation activities is the great number of small companies engaged in exhibition flights and in passenger flights of short duration. This work has not yet reached the dignity of aerial transportation work, but nevertheless both activities have considerable educational value for the general public.

In a large majority of cases these small companies carry out their work very creditably, and it is only as a warning note that we suggest that even greater care be exercised by operators engaged in this work.

There is always the temptation on a small flying field with a couple of machines, where paying passengers are to be found in large numbers, to overtax both the machine and the motor under stress of business. Accidents are likely to happen under these conditions and they are not legitimate accidents. Nevertheless they will be attributed to inherent defects of the airplane and not to an immediate desire for revenue in the air.

Also, on such passenger and exhibition flights, starting should be avoided. Even if the passenger does ask for

start flying, he will not enjoy it. He will come down congratulating himself on being a heroic man, but with the feeling that he has had a very anxious experience. The passenger should come down, feeling that he has had a perfectly safe and normal experience which he would like to repeat.

If these principles are borne in mind by the various aviators engaged in this work all over the country, it would not be far wrong to say that their work would constitute one of the most valuable methods of popularizing the airplane.

## Gasoline Pumps

In the early days of aeronautics, when engines were low powered and flights of short duration, the gasoline system was a matter of simplicity. But in the heavier and faster plane, equipped with multiple engines, required to run several hours without replenishment, and perhaps flying across country with low fuel loading places between, becomes more complex and must be completely reliable.

One of the most important component parts of the gasoline system, is the pump itself.

Pumps of the simple plunger system, valve pump, gear pump, siphon pump, generally driven by a flexible shaft from the engine, have been tried. Pressure pumps have been almost totally discarded. But all mechanically driven pumps have given great trouble. Pumps which are geared right on to an engine, and not always located in the best possible way for the rest of the system. Flexible shafts are one continuous source of worry.

European opinion, and it would find many supporters in this country, seems to be that a pump with sharp valve, driven by an air turbine, is the best solution.

The air-turbine and pump together are mounted on the same shaft, nicely streamlined, placed in the slip stream of the propeller, and well below the level of the tank.

The overall efficiency is probably low, but there is complete latitude of position, perfect reliability and simplicity owing to the slip stream of the propeller; the pump works perfectly well before the plane is started.

Several successful air driven pumps have already been tried, and it would seem as if American designers should give such pumps careful consideration in laying out gasoline systems.

# Resistance of Navy No. 1 Struts

By A. F. Zahn, Ph.D.  
Bureau of Construction and Repair, U. S. Navy

**Prefix.**—The tests herein described were made to determine the resistance of four Navy No. 1 airplane struts, and their resistance coefficients in terms of the air speed and thickness. The measurements were made on the 8 in.  $\times$  8 in. model at speeds of 20 to 70 m.p.h. The test was conducted by the Bureau of Construction and Repair, Bureau of Aeronautics, by M. T. Hatch, both assistants in the aerodynamical laboratory.

**Description of Struts.**—The struts were of aluminum and formed to an air were all 5 ft. long, had a fineness ratio of 3.1, and the aspect ratio of the front face was 1.0. They were all of pure, sheet, or metal temples and varnished. Their nominal thicknesses were respectively 1 in., 2 in., 3 in., 4

inches, and their transverse to a uniform current parallel to the plane of symmetry may be written

$$R = \frac{1}{2} C D^2 / \left( \frac{\rho V^2}{2} \right)$$

in which  $\frac{1}{2} C$  is the drag coefficient,  $D$  the length,  $\rho$  the density,  $V$  the speed,  $\rho$  the air density, viscosity. Though for constant thickness  $D$  and  $V$  may tend to become constant, the actual value of  $DV$  found in airfoil position, it usually varies considerably for the lower values. For convenience in obtaining and using a working formula, the latter equation is written

$$R = K D^2$$

in which  $K$  is the strut resistance per foot length in pounds,

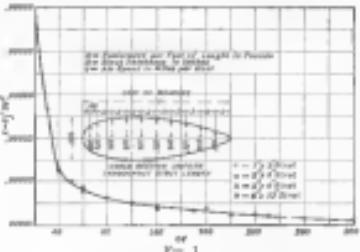


FIG. 1

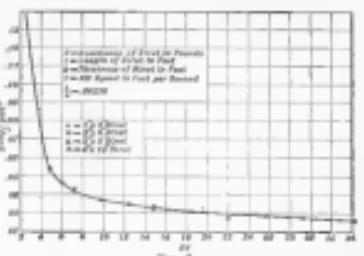


FIG. 2

in. The dimensions of all the struts, except the largest one formed to an airfoil, the latter being about 1 per cent too thick. This curve was used in tabulating and plotting the results.

**Method of Test.**—Each strut on base was held upright in two guides pointing upstream from the shielded position of the wind tunnel. The center of the model was at the end of the tunnel, and its sheet plane of symmetry was parallel to the side walls. The resistance was measured as a sum of the strut and holder, since with the strut detached but the holder in place, the holder was found to add about 2 per cent of that of the strut itself.

**Method of Computing Resistance Due to Pressure-drop.**—As may easily be shown, the pressure-drop resistance of a strut of uniform section can be expressed by the formula

$$R_s = 2 D p / \rho V^2$$

in which  $D$  is the length of the strut,  $p$  the static pressure along the axis of the undisturbed tunnel, and  $\rho$  the half thickness of the strut at maximum offset, the integrations extending from front to rear of the model. For the pressure drop across a section of area  $A$  and thickness  $y$  the pressure drop along struts is  $p = 2 D \Delta p / A y$ , the integral of which is as above. The same result obviously follows if  $p$  is the pressure-drop in the unexpanded stream along the center line of the strut. The pressure drop and its pressure integration are given in Fig. 1 and Fig. 2, respectively, for a fineness ratio of 40 in.  $\times$  8 in. For higher speeds the pressure drop is assumed to increase as the square of the speed. The assumption may, as indicated by some tests still in progress, prove an error of a function of 1 per cent of the total strut resistance.

**The Resistance Coefficient.**—The resistance of a uniform

strut held transverse to a uniform current parallel to the plane of symmetry may be written

$$R = \frac{1}{2} C D^2 / \left( \frac{\rho V^2}{2} \right)$$

in which  $\frac{1}{2} C$  is the drag coefficient,  $D$  the length,  $\rho$  the density,  $V$  the speed,  $\rho$  the air density, viscosity. Though for constant thickness  $D$  and  $V$  may tend to become constant, the actual value of  $DV$  found in airfoil position, it usually varies considerably for the lower values. For convenience in obtaining and using a working formula, the latter equation is written

in which  $K$  is the strut resistance per foot length in pounds,

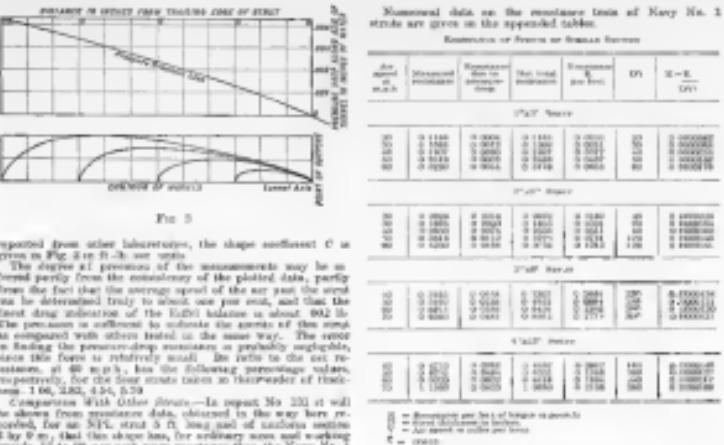


FIG. 3

reported from other laboratories, the shape coefficient  $C$  is given in Fig. 3 for 5 ft. airfoil units.

The degree of precision of the measurements may be as follows. The error in the determination of the density may be due to the fact that the average speed of the air in the tunnel can be determined truly to about one per cent, and that the finest drag indication of the 100 ft. balance is about 0.02 lb. The precision is sufficient to indicate the errors of these measurements as compared with others tested in the same way. The error in the fineness ratio is probably smaller, since the error in the balance is relatively small. The ratio of the resistances at 40 m.p.h. to 100 m.p.h. has the following percentage values, respectively, for the four strut sizes in thousandths of thickness: 1.06, 2.02, 4.24, 5.29.

**Comparison With Other Data.**—In report No. 321 it will be shown that the resistance data, obtained in the way here described, for an N.Y.C. strut 5 ft. long and of uniform section 2 by 8 in., has this shape, has, for ordinary speeds and working speeds, 10 to 20 per cent more resistance than the Navy No. 1 strut of the same section over all dimensions. Reference may also be made to Report No. 320, No. 415 of the British Admiralty Committee for Aerodynamics, which summarizes the resistance coefficients for all the struts tested at the Royal Aircraft Establishment prior to 1938, and those tested by R. H. Jones before the establishment of No. 320. It is interesting to note that the ratio of resistance to the resistance of the strut which would exceed the one shown in Fig. 3 at the distance  $D = 7$ , and therefore will show a for all the higher values.

**Remarks.**—From this investigation it appears that, for the larger struts of the front of an aircraft, the Navy No. 1 strut No. 1 has a smaller coefficient of resistance than any other reported. No account is taken of the weight and certain modes of the strut, which usually enter the coefficient of merit. The general effect of these is well known and need not be repeated as small.

The resistance coefficient may also be written in the dimensionless form

$$C = R_D / \rho D^2$$

in which  $R_D$  is the observed resistance,  $D$  is the projected area, and  $\frac{1}{2} D^2$  is the Noström resistance of this area. Then  $C$  is a shape coefficient, independent of the scale employed, and is called the "absolute coefficient."

The aerodynamic table gives the gross and the net resistance of the front of a strut at various speeds, also the coefficient of resistance  $C$  for the conditions thereon specified. Fig. 1 shows the relation of  $K$  to  $DV$  for the tabulated resistances. The data all lie close to a common curve which, for increasing values of  $DV$ , first decreases, then tends to become constant for large values of  $DV$ . The data for the four struts here recorded,  $K$  approaches but does not attain consistency, that is, the percentage tends to but does not actually, vary as the square of the speed.

For convenience in comparing these results with the like

numerical data on the resistance basis of Navy No. 1 struts are given on the appended tables.

## Resistance of Struts of Similar Section

Area in square inches	Measured resistance	Resistances in square inches	Resistances per foot length	Resistances per foot length	100 ft. area	100 ft. area
0.0005	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
0.0006	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
0.0008	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
0.0010	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
0.0012	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
0.0015	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
0.0020	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
0.0030	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
0.0040	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
0.0050	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
0.0060	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
0.0080	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
0.0100	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
0.0150	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
0.0200	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
0.0300	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
0.0400	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
0.0500	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
0.0600	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
0.0800	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
0.1000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
0.1500	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
0.2000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
0.3000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
0.4000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
0.5000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
0.6000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
0.8000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
1.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
1.5000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
2.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
3.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
4.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
5.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
6.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
8.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
10.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
15.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
20.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
30.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
40.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
50.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
60.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
80.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
100.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
150.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
200.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
300.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
400.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
500.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
600.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
800.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
1000.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
1500.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
2000.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
3000.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
4000.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
5000.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
6000.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
8000.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
10000.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
15000.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
20000.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
30000.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
40000.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
50000.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
60000.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
80000.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
100000.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
150000.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
200000.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
300000.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
400000.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
500000.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
600000.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
800000.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
1000000.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
1500000.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
2000000.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
3000000.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
4000000.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
5000000.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
6000000.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
8000000.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
10000000.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
15000000.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
20000000.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
30000000.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
40000000.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
50000000.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
60000000.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
80000000.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
100000000.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
150000000.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
200000000.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
300000000.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
400000000.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
500000000.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
600000000.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000		

# Function and Construction of the Rip Panel

By J. F. Boyle and E. F. Burley

One of our most modern airships, the C-6, was lost by being blown away from the mooring. It was very unfortunate to lose it in the manner in which it did, and many questions have been raised as to how it happened, very far from the mooring place after having made such a remarkable flight from Beckaway to New Zealand. There is no question that the flight was a remarkable one. However, there must have been a reduction in mooring's part after the flight when it came to landing the ship.

The loss of the ship was apparently due to the failure of the rip panel in function properly. This must be the case if the

ship, thus exposing the slot, through which the gas escaped (Fig. 2). The rapidity with which the gas escaped depends naturally upon the size of the slot and upon the location of the slot in the bag. The length of the slot is limited by the size of the bag. This length is determined from practice. Most likely the length of slot is a spherical balloon as  $\frac{1}{2}$ . This is no accident of the circumference of the bag.

The rip panel is operated by means of a cord, called the rip cord, which is attached to the end of the rip cord of the ship and extends either through the bag or along this extension to the rip panel. In the case of a spherical balloon the cord drops vertically through the bag, passing out through the hole

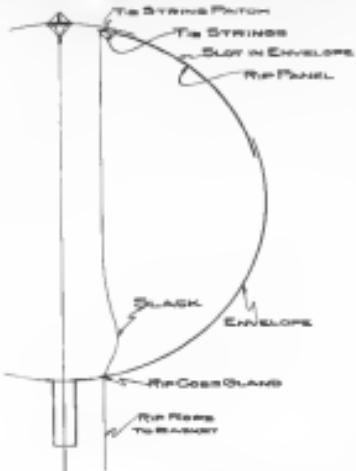


FIG. 1

now of it to the basket (Fig. 1). In order to relieve the panel of the weight of the cord, the cord is used up as an anchor until the weight of the panel (Fig. 1) is great enough to break the weight of the cord. The cord has a strength of about 20 lb. In pulling the rip cord the tie string must be broken first before the pull comes on the panel. This tie string is put on as a safety device so that in case a passenger in the ship comes up on the rip cord and pulls it by accident, the stress will come on the tie string and not on the panel, thus preventing an accident by ripping the panel.

When the rip cord passes out through the bag some means of making the outlet gas-tight must be employed. The general method of accomplishing this is by means of a gland. Several types of glands have been used. One of the most common is a type of gland made of an aluminum frame with a rubber plug made of it. The rip cord passes through the rubber plug. This forms a sufficiently gas-tight gland.

In as slacking the rip cord is generally carried along the outer edge of the bag and tied to the ship's hull.

The importance of the rip panel varies somewhat with the type of balloon. In the case of an airship the rip panels are

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made of the strongest material. These repairs were to the effect that the repaired ship was free from the mooring and from its holding crew, while one of the crew tried to rip the panel, but failed. The ship was then repaired and set. Since the function of the rip panel in an airship are to prevent the ship from being blown away from the mooring, it is necessary to reinforce the panel to withstand the loss of the C-6 mainly to the failure of the rip panel.

Usually, when the rip panel passes through an open slot, it is moved to a moving point. The rip panel repairs are also tied to the moving point, as they are a stress stress and the ship is to move. In an airship the rip panels are automatically repaired and the bag becomes immobile. This serves the ship.

## General Description

The rip panel is simply a slot cut in the gas bag with an extra piece of fabric cemented over the slot (Fig. 3). This extra piece of fabric called the panel, can be ripped off the

edge to guard against losing the ship in a storm within the ship as anchored or in some cases upon landing in a storm. In the case of a fixed balloon, the rip panel is employed at the end of the rip cord. It is ripped just before the landing, so that when the ship lands the rip cord is cut and the gas is allowed to escape from the bag to prevent the balloon rising again off the ground. In the case of an observation balloon, that is, a balloon which is anchored to the ground by a cable, the rip panel is a reinforcement of both the mooring panel and the uppermost balloon panel. The rip panel is cut in the uppermost balloon of the bag in a storm while anchored and it is intended also to be used in landing in case the balloon breaks away from its mooring cable and starts on a free balloon flight.

## Type of Rip Panels

*Spherical Type*—A spherical balloon rip panel is perhaps the most vital part of the balloon. Without it safe landings cannot be made, except under the most favorable conditions.



FIG. 3

On landing the panel is ripped and the bag deflated quickly. Strong gas rushes out rapidly to prevent the balloon rising off the ground again at a new landing. If this were not the case, the balloon would strike the ground and rise again, repeating this several times, depending upon conditions, with great danger to the crew. The rip panel is the most important structure due to defective panels have been proposed.

Figs. 1 and 2 show a spherical rip panel of the type used in the latest Army and Navy airships. It is the outcome of practical changes made from the experiences of many people who have repaired and replaced many types of rip panels. Fig. 3 shows a rip panel of the same type as the one described in 6 in. wide and varies in length from 150% ft. for a small spherical balloon, to 204 ft. for a 72,000 cu. ft. balloon. This slot is taped over the edge with 2 in. balloon tape. This allows one part of the tape to hold the panel and the outside of the envelope and the other part of the tape to hold the edge and prevent fraying. It is also a reinforcement against fraying. Before the edge of the slot is taped, as fast before the slot is cut in the bag at all, two reinforcements of balloon fabric are cemented on to the slot and onto the outside of the envelope. These are glued on by the use of a cement gun.

The rip cord was carried a great distance by the weight of the ship. The rip cord runs from the rip panel to the basket. They are longer than the slot. The slot is cut through these two reinforcements and through the bag stuff and then it is taped. A double stitch is run all around the edge of the slot through the tape. This prevents the tape from becoming loose.

The panel itself which is cemented on to the balloon may be slit in made of two thicknesses of balloon fabric cemented together. The edge is taped, the ripping end of the panel is folded back over a length twice and this fold-back is cemented to the balloon.

The panel is cemented to the balloon for its entire width except where the slot is. The connecting toward the ripping end is brought to a point. This makes it easy to start the rip.

After the ripping end of the panel then is connected to the basket as described. The rip cord and the panel is then tied to the panel by two knotless cords. These cords are of different lengths so that one lies below the other. There is another small patch to which one rope is tied at each. This is an airship pressure.

*Observation Bagless Type*—Figs. 5 and 6 show a type of observation balloon bag panel which comes in as from the French. There are eight holes cut in the envelope, these holes are elliptical rather than circular, so that the panel can be

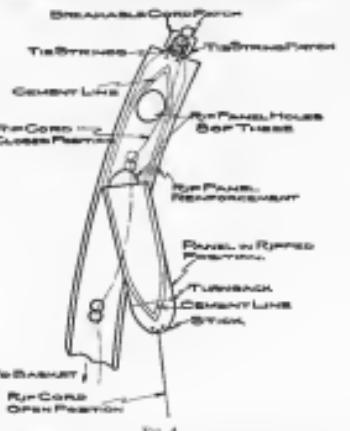


FIG. 4

made comparatively narrow. The edges of the holes are reinforced with a tape grommet. There is a single reinforcement cemented on to the bag before the holes are cut out. The panel itself is two thicknesses of fabric with the edge taped. The rip panel is cut in the bag and the bag is then folded over and tied to the rip cord with two knotless cords. The rip cord is tied to the basket.

There seem to be no advantages of this type of panel over the slot type. On the other hand there seem to be some disadvantages. The gas discharge much more slowly. This is a great disadvantage for an airship over water. This is demonstrated recently in one of the balloon accidents where a spherical was repaired by a committee with an observation balloon rip panel. On landing, the gas escaped so slowly that the balloon was carried a great distance by the wind. The basket was over the ground before it finally stopped. The panel is much heavier and it is harder to rip the panel and spherical type.

*Airship Types*—There are several different types of rip panels used in airships. The type to select depends upon several considerations. The first is the volume of the bag

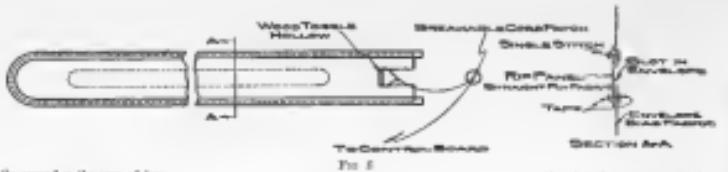


FIG. 6

the second is the area of bag presented to the wind, the third is the length of the bag. Considering the volume, it is obvious that the size type of panel will be the most important, and will allow a fast enough release of gas to be safe. We might put a single panel which would be large enough to release the maximum amount of gas, but the chances are that panel would be so long that the balloon would be extremely weakened at the panel point. It is better, therefore, to put several shorter panels and distribute them around the balloon in the most advantageous places. Considering the great area of the balloon, it is evident that the wind and the consequent ease with which a storm would rip the balloon from its moorings, it is obvious that there must be some way to release the gas at a certain rate to insure a rapid deflation. Considering the great length of the balloon, it is necessary that each be used in releasing the number of panels and their position in the bag.

Fig. 5 shows a type of air ship rep panel. The slot is constructed in much the same manner as that of a spherical rep panel. It is not so important to reinforce and tape the edge of the slot, since the panel is not so seldom. The panel itself is reinforced and stowed in the balloon, and is made of two thicknesses of twip straight fabric. To strengthen the threads it is best to use a small amount of thread to run ply over at forty-five degrees to the other. At the rippling end of this panel there is a toggle slack. A strip of panel as wide as the slot is rigged for a sharp deflation, that is, for rippling to start. Then the toggle slack is fastened to the under panel. In operating the panel the fabric being straight fibres rip very easily. When the rep reaches

the slot, the pressure in the balloon increases rapidly. A rep started in a straight balloon as it is starting, or feet to a yard, will not stop until it reaches a certain point. This is why balloons are made to prevent double release, to prevent long rip.

#### Defenses in Bag

In a spherical balloon the rep panel is located in the upper atmosphere. The top of the slot is about 4 ft. from the valve line. The slot runs to the valve line.

In an observation balloon the rep panel is toward the nose or top of the balloon. It runs transversely.

In a spherical balloon the rep panel is in a祝祝 envelope. It is not so important to reinforce the panel, since it is not so seldom. The slot part of the envelope is either strengthened. What is desired is to get the gas out of the bag as quickly as possible when the panel is ripped. Hence the rep panel is made lighter than any other panel, since the best place to let it out of the bag is right at the top. It is also important that the slot part of the envelope will be on top when the panels are ripped or when the envelope is turned about by a storm.

It is also important that spherical envelopes act differently under different conditions. The action depends a great deal on the action of the wind. It is important to reinforce the slot in the wind direction. If the envelope is cross-wise to the wind direction it will be over no cut slot or the envelope to put up panels on both sides. If there are panels on both sides and cover up the slot.

If the envelope is turned into the wind, when it is ripped the wind will force the gas toward the rear, hence there must be one or more panels toward the rear. The panels and envelope at the rear being of great area are

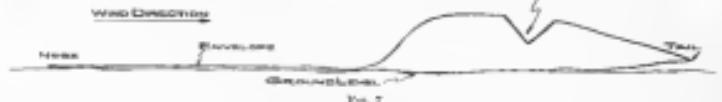


FIG. 7

able to cause the tail of the balloon to be whipped around. It is well to have a rip panel placed among the panels so as to allow a quick deflation of the tail.

If the bag lands with its tail land-on to the wind, the gas will be forced out of the slot and the envelope will be forced to turn over. The gas will then be forced to rip, where the balloon falls the panel is on top. In the case of this rip the envelope might settle so as to cover up the panel.

Another cause of accident is illustrated by an incident which happened to one of our own men. An observation balloon was being deflated and the wind was blowing. The panel was located on the wind and the wind would go through the panel, mixed with the hydrogen, forming an explosive mixture which was ignited by static electricity. The balloon was turned up, so that the wind would blow in the rear of the envelope. The panel was then turned and deflated.

There are other causes of failure, such as breaking of the rip cord and tangling and knotting of the cord inside of the envelope. Such cases are due to carelessness in preparing the cords, before flight.

There are other causes of failure which may be noted in order to prevent various failures of panels. Ripcord is the panel taken other than the normal. Ripcord splits must be eliminated. The splits in stronger than the panel itself and the panel is apt to fail on either side of the splits. In applying ripcord to the bag it is important to make the splits in the right place, or a short piece of ripcord will pass the splits and fail. If the splits are on against the direction of rippage, the panel will rip the reinforcement as it passes over them.

It is good practice to have a hole in the envelope in connecting, a slot which may be used to allow the gas to leak.

In spherical balloons a great deal of slack must be allowed in the end panels of the balloon. When the balloon becomes full it elongates in great shape. If there is not enough slack in the rear the panel will rip.

In operating the panel may not be taken to close to the bag very thoroughly before putting the panel back on.

From the foregoing description it is evident that the importance of the rep panel in any type of lighter-than-air craft must be understood. The fact that a balloon is a very slow moving body may not be what the public would ever have in mind as to reason why people are so anxious to have a rip panel placed in the envelope. When the rep panel is needed, it is needed badly.

## Novel German Transport Airplane



FOKKER-JUNKERS NO. 1 PASSENGER MONOPLANE WITH ALL-METAL FUSelage COVERED WITH CLOTHED METAL DILLOMEL. THIS STYLISH INTRODUCTORY MACHINE HAS, AS MAY BE SEEN, INTERNALLY TRUSSED WINGS. THE CONSTRUCTION APPROX. A CARGO VIEW FORWARD AND FORWARD TO THE PROPEL

(c) International





# Rules of the British Seaplane Competition

The seaplane competition which the British Air Ministry has decided to hold simultaneously with the airplane competition, that is to say, beginning March 1, 1930, will be open to land and boat type airplanes and engines constructed within the British Empire, although entries may come from any part of the world. The competition will be open to all types of aircraft, although the British Air Ministry will endeavor to obtain the best types of float seaplanes or flying boats on which it will be safe to land, and which in particular will be capable of taking off and rising from land as well as water.

Unlike the airplane competition, the seaplane competition will be open to all types of aircraft, including all types of either float or boat type provided with seating accommodation for four persons exclusive of the crew. Machines must fulfill all conditions required for a certificate of airworthiness—as laid down in the British Air Navigation Act, 1919—and must carry personnel and materials for all persons to be who are to be carried, provided that the weight of the crew, the boat or float, must be so calculated that of preference it may not part such that still retains positive buoyancy.

Competing machines must have a minimum high speed of 60 m.p.h. (100 km.p.h.), and a maximum low speed of 40 m.p.h. (65 km.p.h.), and a maximum low speed of 40 m.p.h. (65 km.p.h.) in a wind of not more than 10 m.p.h. (16 km.p.h.) and must be capable of climbing not less than 200 ft per min.

## Starting and Getting-Off Tests

### (a) Getting-off (land)

Machines will be required to take off with full load, and alone or on obstacle 30 ft above sea level at a distance not exceeding 200 ft from a position of rest.

### (b) Getting-off (land)

Machines will be required to land on a smooth surface over an obstacle 20 ft in height and to come to rest in a distance not exceeding 400 yd., measured as a straight line from the point where the obstacle is crossed. For that test machines will be required to carry full load (less oil per eng.) and a speed of not less than 16 knots and not greater than 28 knots.

start and a short flying test within a period of one hour from the conclusion of the 30 hours period.

The test will be carried out under fair weather conditions. Marks will be allotted for rapidity in getting off, way under.

(c) Getting-off (water)

Machines will be required to move from a position of rest within a period of not less than 12 hours, unattended, under the following conditions:

Locality—Bounded skiddered from the open sea.

Wind—From 4 to 6 on the Beaufort Scale.

Marks will be allotted for the general condition of the machine at the conclusion of this test, and its behavior during the course of the test.

In both the above tests the ordinary average tidal currents existing round the coast of the British Isles may be experienced.

Rough water, rolling off, and slighting test.

Each machine must make a figure of eight course round two buoys 100 yd. apart, and within a rectangle measuring 200 yd. by 100 yd. in a wind not exceeding 10 m.p.h. (16 km.p.h.) and not greater than 20 m.p.h. (32 km.p.h.).

Each machine must be capable of moving as the water, under its own power, for a period of at least 30 min. and at a speed of not less than 16 knots and not greater than 28 knots.

## Machinery Blockade

Each machine will be required to carry an anchor and sea anchor, as well as the necessary tools, and to anchor on a bottom, leaving ground with its own gear and release fast in a wind of 30 m.p.h. and with full current not exceeding 3 knots.

In a machine bearing two or more engines, the stopping or releasing of one engine must not cause the machine to go out of control.

Machines must be capable of flying at crossing speeds for 3 min. without the use of any control or stabilizing device. Control may be locked during the test.

Machines, in the resting flying position, must take up and maintain a flying angle, while the engine or engines are not running, and not exceeding 10° from the horizontal.

After starting (1) machines must be capable of recovering flying speed and complete control without a loss of more than 500 ft in height.

Machines must be capable of being started from the deck, and of landing on the deck under similar conditions.

Marks will be awarded for the general condition of construction, the general features, for general behavior, and for exceeding the specified requirements.

(d) Flying off (land)

In test (a), (b) and (c) above, machines will be allowed three attempts, of which one must be successful.

## Test of Reliability at Flight

Each machine must carry a flight of five hours at a speed through the air of not less than 70 knots, starting with full load.

Flight may be changed during this flight.

## Inspection Tests

(a) Fire weather. Each machine will be exposed to a heavy fire for 15 min., and must be able to take off within 10 min. (less than the time allowed) for a period of 24 hours, during the first 20 hours of which time it will be left unattended. The crew will not be allowed on board to assist in putting out the fires at any time during this test except with the permission of judges and the secretary.

At the conclusion of the 24 hours period the crew will be allowed on board; the machine will be set under way with its own crew and under its own power, and will be required to

start and a short flying test within a period of one hour from the conclusion of the 30 hours period.

The test will be carried out for rapidity in getting off, way under.

(b) Durability of machine, including propeller (any advantages due to metal construction may be taken into account).

(c) Simplicity of design and accessibility of parts.

(d) Absence of vibrations in the machine.

(e) Ease of repair, especially as regards the tail or floats.

General reliability and stability.

(f) Efficiency and rate of control.

(g) Identification of tail or nose for the point for the pilot.

(h) Silence as affecting occupants of the machine.

(i) Comfort generally, including warmth.

(j) Self-starting devices.

(k) Convenience of mounting and unmounting armaments.

- (l) Method of wind screening adopted.
- (m) Conveniences for use of instruments.
- (n) Facilities of landing and exit for occupants.
- (o) Ease of parking arrangements.

## Behavior about sea

### (a) Stability at rest.

### (b) Water stability at all speeds.

### (c) Machine spray at all speeds.

Marks will be allotted for exceeding the maximum high speed and flying time that the maximum low speed.

The judges will have regard to the method of flying paragraphs, and especially to the means of work by paragraphs

afforded to the occupants, and will allow marks for the same.

Fuel load will suffice, breath the atmosphere specified in the value of the seaplane competition, a certain fuel and oil sufficient to fly the maximum miles (500 statute miles) at 100 m.p.h. (160 km.p.h.) in a wind of 10 m.p.h. (16 km.p.h.).

During or on completion of any flying test, if it is necessary to effect any repairs to the machine after alighting, it will be considered to have failed in that particular test.

The British Air Ministry agrees to lay the machine during the first year of the design, and to pay the sum of £1,000 for the maintenance of the machine, at a maximum price of £5,000. The following prizes will be awarded to competition: First prize, £10,000; second prize, £4,000; third prize, £2,000.

## Book Reviews

### A GLOSSARY OF AERONAUTICAL TERMS. 106 pp. Royal Aero. Society.

The Technical Terms Committee of the Royal Aeronautical Society, headed by Lieut.-Col. Marcus Oberthür, and having for members representations of every important aeronautical body in Great Britain, has just issued.

It is the most complete, but not the best attempted and deserves to be one of the most useful aeronautics, although the Committee very modestly terms the glossary a working compilation.

The basis of the present glossary was as follows:

- (a) The origin or creation of new terms has been avoided.
- (b) Terms which, though used in aeronautics, have the same sense in their ordinary usage, have been excluded with few exceptions.
- (c) When current usage has been in a term has been associated with employment which was either dominant or most logically descriptive.

(d) In so far as possible no term has been coined by clearly defining their application.

(e) Cross references have been given to many publications which have a reasonably wide use, but formal sources have not been given to them.

(f) The application of symbols has been simplified for those most used and explained which relate to aerodynamics.

(g) Terms of which the meaning is obscure has been narrowed down to some specialized significance have readily been excluded.

(h) The names used in several states of parts and mechanisms have been omitted and defined where necessary.

(i) Meteorology and its terms have been avoided as a part of the science of aeronautics.

A very serious attempt is also made to standardize a system of aeronautical symbols.

A good deal of work was done on standardizing the popular names of parts, but it was decided to leave this to the recommendations of the Aeronautical Standardization Committee of the Engineering Standards Association, have been similarly adopted.

The Glossary is based on a universal system of decimal division, and is a system of nomenclature of sufficient extension and with which it is possible to cover any reasonable phase of aeronautics, by every branch of human knowledge.

The main headings of the Glossary include:

#### General Physics, Ballistics, Hydromechanics, Atmosphere, Aerodynamics.

#### Aerodynamics in general.

#### Elements of Lighter-than-Air Craft.

#### General Dynamical Theory of Aeronautic Motion.

#### Hydrodynamics.

#### Air Resistance.

#### Magnetism.

#### Meteorology.

#### Aircraft Internal Combustion Engines.

#### General Theory.

#### Aeronautical Economics.

#### Navigation by Air and Aerial.

#### Lighter-than-Air Craft.

#### Complaints.

### Envelope, Biplane, Body, Nacelle, Engine Installation, Tank and Pipe Installation, Armament Installation, Aircraft Instruments and Electrical Installation, Standard Air Comps.

### Compound Pitch.

### Body Engine Installation.

### Tank and Pipe Installation.

### Aeronautics, Main Planes, Tail, Controls, Flying.

### Under-carriage Instruments.

### Aerial Navigation.

### Tanker Name.

*Editor's Note.—For discussion.—*—The most important definition is that of disposable fuel: "The fuel available for fuel, gear, etc., when the aircraft has been loaded the crew and all gear required for flight." This seems a reasonable ruling of a disputed question.

*General Dynamical Theory of Aeronautic Motion.*—The committee has given considerable thought to the question of axes. The committee has been a most pleasing feature in all these meetings of the aeronautical committee, and the system of general axes and their relations to the flight of the aircraft are now well known. The angle of attack is a positive quantity with the aeronautic postulate in a direction opposed to the flight direction. This is contrary to physical conception. In the system recommended by the committee the angle of attack is measured with the axis of the aircraft, and the angle of sideslip is measured with the axis of the aircraft, the angle of incidence, the thrust of the engine and the weight of the aircraft are positive. A positive load means a positive angle of attack. The air resistance and forces in the aircraft are positive signs. The air resistance and forces in the aircraft are negative signs. The angle of climb is negative. This is a very fair compromise and one which harmonizes well readily adopt.

The glossary includes a complete list of symbols for use in the general dynamical theory. The system of symbols introduced is the one most used from present practice. Greek letters are unfortunately introduced for angle of sideslip, but the angle of incidence is given in the text. The angle of sideslip, the angle of incidence, the thrust of the engine and the weight of the aircraft are positive. A positive load means a positive angle of attack. The air resistance and forces in the aircraft are negative signs. The angle of climb is negative. This is a very fair compromise and one which harmonizes well readily adopt.

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With forces and moments vary as the density and the square of the speed, resistance derivatives vary as the density and the first power of the speed, so that the absolute coefficient is defined by an equation such as

$$K_A = \frac{1}{2} C_D \rho V^2$$

A very useful table gives the dimensional values of all resistance coefficients.

*Density.*—The definitions given here are extremely valuable, defining measurements about which there is considerable confus-

**Special Instability**—The instability on account of which an aeroplane tends to depart from straight flight, by a series of undulating and banking, the latter being always to the right.

A truly aerofoil deflection.

**Rebukedness**—A disturbance which does not without oscillation, which is new to us. An aileron.

**Despousness**—A disturbance which increases without oscillation.

**Minuteness**—The deflections under tail loading are a powerful not so aptly measured as, but not less familiar with, the subject.

**Lopitidismus**—In aeronautics work a great many parts are always loosely defined and the Glossary will do much to assist in reducing by systematization the present harem.

With these definitions, and the following, the aeronautics people to follow in the definition of the term *horizontal*—“the air *horizontal* portion of an aerofoil”—for not being sufficiently explicit. This objection, though not obvious at first sight, becomes apparent in view of the deflections given to the aerofoil. The *horizontal* portion of the aerofoil is the *horizontal* which constitutes a deflection from current position, where the future curve of movement and non-parallel aerofoils is called *overhang*, and that of curves in parallel outer curves. This change is *nonhorizontal* because it is not a *deflection* from the *horizontal*, the *deflection* of the aerofoil is not sufficiently explicit, because no rigid and no semi-rigid aerofoil aerofoil there is an air *spur*—sometimes called *ram-air*—inside of the *overhang* (or outer cover) which does not of necessity function as a *keel*, although it is used in aeronautics.

By the way, though *balance* is a very widely employed term, the question arises whether it would not be preferable to use *governed* a more precise term, such as *no tendency to oscillate*, so as to cover every *fixed* rigid aerofoil will eventually be governed by the *balance* of the aerofoil when the aerofoil of a flexible tail biplane will be elevated, the keel, gas chamber might be substituted as the case for *pin* legs.

**Parts of the aerofoil**—The deflections relating to the main planes are referred to as *flexion*. Thus,

**Gap**—The distance between the top and bottom main supporting surfaces of a biplane. For specific purposes the *gapped* point between which it is measured should be indicated.

This is a confusion of nomenclature. It is just to make a comment that *gap* would look like a definition of *stagger*.

The deflections of aerofoils which are “*asymmetrical* used for research purposes are *deflections* of aerofoils which are *asymmetrical* for the purpose of *balance*,<sup>10</sup> and not at all deflected. Where the aerofoils are attached, and have attached, could be covered by the deflections.

In speaking of *asymmetry* the Glossary says: “*Wings* are *asymmetrical* to *various* forces in the *various* directions to *lift*.<sup>11</sup> Mention should have been made of the fact that time was *more* into action in *upwind* down flying and in landing.

The Glossary has an excellent index and some useful discussions in connection with various parts and main structural parts of the aerofoil.

### Course in Aeronomical Engineering

Since Oct. 2 a series of evening lectures on the theory and practice of aeronomical engineering are being delivered at the Brooklyn Polytechnic Institute by Alexander Klemin, commanding aeromotors engineer. These lectures deal with the following: *Principles of aeronomics*, to be followed by the practical application of the principles to *surface construction* and *design*.

They will not be too far advanced in character, but, as far as possible, technically sound.

The lectures will be of interest to airplane draftsmen and engineers in the industry. For further particulars, apply to the Director of the Evening School, Brooklyn Polytechnic Institute, Brooklyn, N. Y.

### Chicago Aeronautical Show

The first aeronautical exposition next year will be held at Chicago the week of Jan. 4 and will be the first stage of the show to be held in the city during the month of January. Exhibitors are preparing to display a variety of 1929 aerofoils, the character of which have anticipated the wants of prospective customers among the rapidly increasing numbers of private aerofoils. The evolution of the aerofoil from war to passenger models will be one of the features of the show.

The exhibition committee of the show has established headquarters in the Congress Hotel, Chicago.



ONE OF THE AIRS (D. H.1) MOOTHS EMPLOYED IN THE DAILY LINDEN-PARK PASSENGER AND FREIGHT SERVICE RECENTLY LAUNCHED  
(c) Underwood & Underwood

## The Schneider International Seaplane Cup



ITALIAN FLYING-BOAT FAIRLY BY JAGUAR—THE VICTORIOUS ITALIAN TEAM  
(c) Express Photo Co.

The annual competition for the Jules Schneider International Seaplane Cup, which had not been held owing to the war since 1913, when it was won by Great Britain, will be held on Sept. 29 at Beauvechain, Belgium. One Italian team—three Deltaplano, three French and one Italian—only one, the Italian, finished the race, but as he did not cover the prescribed course owing to an error of judgment the race was declared won by the Great Britain Committee of the Aeronautic Club of Great Britain.

The race was run over a triangular course of 26 nautical miles, and the nominal average ten laps or the shortest time was to be declared winner. The landing points of the course were marked by marking buoys, carrying observers to



A FRENCH ENTRY FOR THE SCHNEIDER CUP: THE SEAP-FLYER BY S. LACROIX  
(c) Express Photo Co.

On the day of the race there was a light haze, with no wind at all and a dead calm sea, and the race was easily won by the members of the majority of the teams. Coming to the aid of one of all the contestants had no effect at those speeds, save flying speed, and that is not the sort that was so much used as had been claimed; consequently the extra light loads of the racing seaplanes which would have functioned satisfactorily on a fairly windy day did not create any difficulty. The results of the race were as follows: the members of the winning teams had their boats open being beached, while others had their drift wood while racing; thus all the Italian team, the Savoia Cygnolante piloted by Jannini, were eliminated. The latter received the prescribed 100 pts, but seems to have been seriously handicapped because of the small amount of water which he had to contend with around the boat, which the judges open the Contest Committee declared the race void. The Italian representation appealed against this decision and lodged a protest against the manner in which the race was managed.

### Army and Navy Balloon Race

A five balloon race between representatives of the Army and the Navy, under the auspices of the Missouri Aero-club Society, was held on Sept. 26, 1919, starting from St. Louis, Mo. These balloons were inflated separately by the Army and those representing the Navy, a total of 80,000 cu. ft. each. The contestants had one race, each carrying one officer as pilot and one as gas. The object was to cover the greatest distance in any direction from St. Louis, and time was not a factor in the race.

On the Navy balloons, one was unable to leave the park, owing to a leaking valve, and another, at Mineral Point, Mo., and the other, which was the largest, became tangled at St. Louis, Mo. Of the Army balloons, one was forced to land on the bank of St. Louis, after 20 minutes flight, another landed at Green Bay, Wis.; and the third piloted by Captain E. P. Phillips, with Lt. Leon H. T. Bent as co-pilot, landed at the village of Lake Michigan, on Devil's Door Mat, just north of the Devil's Den.

The agreement was that as soon as each of the points on the shore had received just indirect sunlight the water was to be taken as the end of the race, so that the fastest point would be used to the exclusion of the earliest. The Army team, however, and it appears from the incomplete information of land that the result is probably in its favor. Lt. Bent, Captain of the Navy, and Captain Phillips and Lt. Bent, Capt. of the Army. The officials of the Coast and Geodetic Survey are computing the exact distance and to date the official announcement of the winner has not been made.

### Long Seaplane Flight

A remarkable demonstration flight in the Gothaer seaplane was recently carried out by F. S. Flyng Test No. 4044, of No. 4, Communication Squadrons, R.A.F. Starting from Fokkerhafen and proceeding via Dusseldorf, the machine flew to Copenhagen, and from Copenhagen, it continued to the last leg in stages to Copenhagen, Copenhagen, Stockholm, Gothaer, Rango and back to Fokkerhafen, a total distance of 2,680 sea miles, which was covered in a total flying time of 46 hours 45 minutes.

The flight was made without an intermediate stop, a demonstration of flying long distances without landing the machine or of any kind, despite the fact that from its departure until its return to Fokkerhafen, the machine spent a total of twenty-seven days in the water or in the air.

How drowsy it perhaps the last night in the world for sleepless navigation! Very few have been more difficult to cross than the long distances, and generally dangerous for sleeping. On the other hand steel-lined stretches of water are found everywhere and there are numerous natural seaplane harbors. Fortunately the whole of Norway is navigable by seaplanes making use of the fjords, and in Denmark all the large ports are open to the sea. In order to fly over a natural harbor, however, one must cross the country, forced by the two large lakes between Vatne and Vassma, the Gothic Canal, and countless small bays and inlets.

**New World Records**  
Four new world records have recently been established by American pilots.

A new official world's altitude record for pilot and one passenger was made by Captain W. E. Schroeder, of the U.S. Army, on Sept. 26, 1919, at 20,000 ft., in a Lorraine biplane equipped with a 440 hp. Liberty motor.

Major Schreder's new record was made possible by the new engine's super-charger, originated during the war but not perfected until recently, and which apparently doubles the efficiency of the motor at high altitudes.

The Lorraine biplane, equipped with Liberty motor, which Major Schroeder used in the altitude flight, had a maximum speed at no level of 125 m.p.h. At an altitude of more than 10,000 ft. the speed, owing to the rarity of the atmosphere and the accompanying decrease in power, was reduced to 80 m.p.h. At the super-charger driver, the horizontal speed at 20,000 ft. was maintained at over 130 m.p.h., or almost equal to the best possible at no level. Major Schreder found that the compressor consumed but 5 or 10 per cent of the engine's horse power, while at 20,000 ft. altitude only 10 per cent of the power of the engine at no level pressure, and the maximum engine functioning approximately the same as under the best conditions at no level.

Major Schreder and his passenger were electrically heated clothing and oxygen helmets. The record shows that the engine was running at 2,000 r.p.m. At 20,000 ft., the engine, at 1,000 r.p.m., reached an altitude of 24,018 ft., thus establishing a new world altitude record for pilot alone and breaking his own record of 20,000 ft. which he made in his own plane, the "Wasp." The altitude record of 24,018 ft. was made in 1 hr. 50 min., 78 miles of which was taken up by the climb. No stoppage was used in this record breaking flight.

On the following day Holby established with the same aircraft a new clearing record by climbing 15,000 ft. in 9 minutes, 40 seconds. The engine used in this record was a 200 hp. Hispano-Suiza engine, also held the official world speed record with 163 m.p.h., and this was made last year under present supervision at McCook Field, Dayton, Ohio, and in making it the "Wasp" carried the designed military load consisting of four machine guns and 1,100 rounds of ammunition.

On Sept. 21, Capt. Bruce, pilot, and Col. Young, observer, flying a Loring hydro-seaplane fitted with a 300 hp. Hispano-Suiza engine established at Pensacola, Florida, 1,000 ft. world altitude record for seaplanes by ascending to 18,000 ft. in 10 minutes.

This record as well as that made by Major Schreder has been recognized by the American Flying Club; Holby's record is awaiting recognition by the Aero Club of America pending the certification of his height record by the Bureau of Standards.

### A Lester

**Robert, AVIATION AND AERONAUTICAL ENGINEERING**—In my previous article, "Aviation Engineering," in the *United States Magazine of Science and Art*, Oct. 1, 1918, I gave the information that the first balloon cable with telephone core developed in the United States during the War was satisfactorily. I believe, however, that this is apt to be misinterpreted as the cable can be considered satisfactory only relatively to the service it did. What the cable did give, however, was a new type of communication, it being always available, and definitely free from breakage in the cable by any chance got broken or severed. From the standpoint of progress that cable marked a certain stage of the development, but we are not at all satisfied with it, and are taking steps now in cooperation with the manufacturers to develop an improved type of cable which when it is longer will give a longer life to the telephone connections in the wire.

J. G. HARRISON,  
Compt. (G. C.), U. S. N.

## Housing the Airplane

By E. L. R. GRIMSBY

Chief Engineer, Richards Engineering Corporation

Among the many inventions brought forth by the Great War in the development of aircraft and aerial transports is a large aero-hangar.

The Richards Patent aero-hangar is such a product of the war and was originally designed to solve a very important problem with which the British government was faced

This was thoroughly tested by the engineers attached to the Air Ministry, Royal Air Force and substantiated in the following statement:

**Test**—For the purpose of testing for the test, works of greatest strength 7,000 lb. were suspended 200 ft. and of the two centre trusses of the king post and also at the top of each



Fig. 1. CORNER VIEW OF RICHARDS TYPE A AIRPLANE HANGAR WITH FRONT COLUMNS OMITTED

and in the war, that of providing for seaplanes a longer runway than the one intended by the British requirements.

- (1) A maximum span of 72 ft.
- (2) Weight not to exceed 13,000 lb.
- (3) Ease in erection, a vital consideration.
- (4) Ease of transport—equally important.

Having solved the problem of the engine and the problem of the aero-hangar, the next problem was the problem of the Richards Type "A" seaplane hangar (see Figs. 1 and 2) was built and erected in the following dimensions. A clear floor space of 72 ft. wide by 40 ft. deep and front opening 20 ft. wide by 10 ft. 0 in. 7 in. clear height and drooping at height of the deck to 8 ft. 4 in. There is an additional floor space at the rear 72 ft. by 8 ft. available for use as a store or workshop.

Having solved the problem of the engine and the problem of the aero-hangar, the next problem was the problem of the Richards Type "A" seaplane hangar (see Figs. 1 and 2) was built and erected in the following dimensions.

Dimensions: The clear height under the eaves for landing and rearing at the top of the hangar was only 8 ft.

The chief advantages of the Richards hangars are:

- (1) Economy of material. Less material is used in this hangar than in any other type of similar dimensions.
- (2) Lightness of structure. Having regard to the advantages above it is obvious that the resultant structure affords a corresponding saving in weight and due in part to the special manner of forming the hollow box sections it is still maintaining the necessary strength.
- (3) Lightness of structure. Having regard to the advantages above it is obvious that the resultant structure affords a corresponding saving in weight and due in part to the special manner of forming the hollow box sections it is still maintaining the necessary strength.
- (4) Protection. The members of the structure



Fig. 2. FRAMEWORK OF A RICHARDS TYPE B AIRPLANE HANGAR ERECTED AT THE CANADIAN NATIONAL EXHIBITION IN TORONTO



Fig. 1. FRONT VIEW OF RICHARDS TYPE B AIRPLANE HANGAR WITH FRONT LOUVERED CLOSURE.

are so designed that the end of each member is fitted with specially designed connections so that the structure can be easily taken down and erected again.

**Exterior.**—The handles by radio use and needed in one day, six men complete the structure by covering it with waterproof canvas. The canvas door curtains are slotted at the centre, half sliding to each side allowing the airplane to pass in or out of the hangar. Preferably the airplane is to be stored. This is a great advantage especially where skilled labor is not available, and such circumstances are likely to arise, leading regard to the future commercial possibilities of aircraft in isolated parts of the world.

**Transoms.**—The structure is designed in such a way that no single part exceeds 15 ft. in length, and each member can be lifted by one man. This hangs the one panel and covered by one large Army truck.

**Foundations.**—A great deal of interest is taken for the foundations of these hangars. For securing these hangars to the ground against the action of the wind, specially designed anchors are driven into the ground and situated in the base plates. The depth of these penetrates the earth veins approximately 18 in. deep. They are 3 ft. by 6 ft. in length. In these there are provided every necessary fastenings. These baulks have been erected on all kinds of soil and from the base when laid down no subsidence is noticed. These anchors will withstand the severe "Transvaal" winds, a new example of foundation work. The resulting foundation is not in spite of the very heavy downpour of rain and severe winds they were as sound at the close of the exhibition as the day they were erected.

As the war proceeded and military airplanes grew ever larger, so did the hangars, and the fastest and most economical in the war had one again to be met for housing these machines with their great overall wing spans. It was then that the Richards Type B hangar (see Fig. 3) was built and erected, more especially for sheltering the large biplanes. This building is 100 ft. long.

The Richards Type B hangar has a clear floor space of 130 ft. by 80 ft., and a front opening of 20 ft. wide by 20 ft. clear height, and dropping to 20 ft. in height at the back. At the rear, and extending the whole length, is an additional floor space of 20 ft. by 20 ft. for use as a store or workshop. The structure spans no more to ascertain if the hangar is large enough to house it, and if it satisfied all the needs. Hence it was officially tested.

**Post.**—The British government engineers applied a similar test in this stage as was done in the case of the Type A. This was obtained by suspending weighed material from each of the three intermediate transoms. 3000 lb. from each transom was suspended at the top of each curtain and 412 ft. from the point midway between the hangar post and the tie, making a total of 10,000 lb.

**Deflection.**—The maximum deflection from the loading applied at the top of the centre transom was only 1 in. and under the top of each of the side transoms was 1½ in. This shows the strength and economy result from a portable structure of this type and construction.

**Contractors.**—The same portability has been maintained in the hangar as in the smaller type of hangar interlocking fit transom and large base plates.

The maximum length of any one transom is 18 ft. The width of the various structures can be standard or any size required.

**Fixtures.**—The great hangar is erected by sixteen to twenty men in about five days, eight to ten men complete the covering of the waterproof canvas in one day.

Over 500 hangars of the Type "A" size were constructed for use in the war, and about 700 of the Type "B" size.

In the recent cross-Atlantic flight not less than 1200 miles taken in Koenigshafen there were Richards' Portable airplane hangars, which demonstrated the popularity this hangar enjoys in the world of British aeronautics.

The Richards Engineering Corp. have designed three hangars for the British War Office, one 100 ft. by 20 ft. overhang, each as corrugated steel or corrugated asbestos, with sheeting and felt, etc., with either a wood or steel framing. They have also had vibration experience in the design of aircraft sheds, passenger aero-ports, structures and air stations.

### Petroleum and Allied Substances

In order that the oil men of the country may keep in closer touch with the latest information in petroleum, the Petroleum Division of the Bureau of Mines, Department of the Interior, proposes to issue monthly a lithography of petroleum prepared by E. H. Berroughs. Copies will be sent each month to the various oil trade journals for publication, and the Bureau will be happy to receive suggestions regarding publication. In addition, there will be a copy in the hands of various organizations such as the Western Refiners' Petroleum Association, American Petroleum Institute, etc. It is not the purpose of the Bureau of Mines to establish an editorial staff, but, as far as possible, the work will be done by the Bureau's staff. The Bureau will be responsible for the quality of the lithograph, and will be supplied with by the Bureau. These lithographs will be sent to the oil press for publication as near the first of each month as practicable.

The Bureau, since 1915, has published annually a lithography of petroleum which is very popular and previous to this has issued a number of the petroleum industry. The most recent containing references to asphalt and bitumen produced during 1927 is now on the hands of the editor and should appear before the end of this year. The 1928 lithography should be issued within the next several months, and it is hoped that the 1929 reprint will be available in the early part of the second half of the year. It is in order to avoid these delays, which detract from the value of lithographs, that the Bureau of Mines proposes to issue monthly lithographs.



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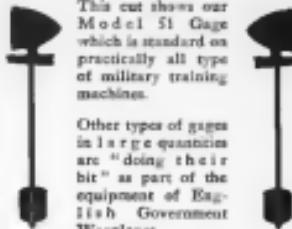
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**A**NOTHER tribute to the acknowledged dependability of UNITED STATES AIRPLANE TIRES was their use on the Vought V-E-7—winner of the Reliability and Handicap Trials during the recent New York-Toronto International Derby.

**United States Tires  
are Good Tires**

